

**Press release**  
Exhibitions  
Until September 12, 2021

## ***Picasso. Figures and Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation***

*Don't delay! The MNBAQ's two summer  
exhibitions will end in one month.*

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*“With Picasso. Figures, the MNBAQ casts a ‘topical, courageous’ light on the artist’s work.” [translation]*

– Léa Harvey, *Le Soleil*

*“The six sections of the Picasso. Figures exhibition will delight art lovers.” [translation]*

– Éric Clément, *La Presse*



Québec City, Wednesday, August 11, 2021 ✕ Only one month remains to see the *Picasso. Figures* exhibition, which ends on September 12, 2021, presented by Quebecor, which highlights Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). The masterpieces assembled celebrate the human figure, the artist’s favourite subject and presented in an exclusive Canadian engagement at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ).

Musée national  
des beaux-arts  
du Québec

To complement the exhibition, *Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation* exhibition, a group exhibition in a continuous circuit rooted in the contemporary world, will echo the work of this giant of modernity. Picasso rejected the diktats of the aesthetic cannons linked to the representation of the human figure, which enables the MNBAQ to raise certain contemporary social concerns and offer relevant, thoughtful reflection on body diversity. The exhibition links Picasso's work with that of 10 contemporary artists, i.e., *The Womanhood Project* (Sara Hini and Cassandra Cacheira), Marion Wagschal, Arianne Clément, Haley Morris-Cafiero, Alain Benoit, ChasonYeboah, Fred Laforge, Kamissa Ma Koïta, Kezna Dalz and *Les folies passagères* (Maude Bergeron), who are interested in their practice in the representation of the body. This complementary adventure focuses on openness and rapprochement with others and proposes active participation in debate in our society aimed at improving it.



### *Infinite exploration of the body*

Presented as a thematic retrospective that explores more than 75 years of the artist's career, *Picasso. Figures* has been organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Musée national Picasso-Paris and MondoMostre. The exhibition comprises 76 works, including 47 major paintings, drawn from its remarkable collection, produced between 1895 and 1972. From portraits, influenced by years of apprenticeship inspired by 17th century Spanish masters, to the representations featuring expressionist, liberated body movements of the final period, the deconstructed, reconstructed, constantly transformed body turns into malleable figures on the path of this unique genius.



### *Six seminal works illustrate six fascinating themes*

The exhibition focuses on six themes: *Female figures*, *Cubist figures*, *Magic figures*, *Sculptural figures*, *Disfigured figures*, and *Late figures*. It mainly comprises paintings, drawings, and prints, ranging from the Spanish master's formative years to the final paintings in the last period. It also assembles a remarkable collection of sculptures that reflect the artist's multidisciplinary dimension.

Among the showpieces that illustrate each of themes on the exhibition circuit and the striking periods of Picasso's career, mention should be made of: *La Lecture* (1932), *Man with a Guitar* (1911), *Figure : projet pour un*

*monument à Guillaume Apollinaire (1928), The Bathers (1918), Grand nu au fauteuil rouge (1929), and finally, Luncheon on the Grass, After Manet (1960).*

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## *A tribute to Picasso's muses*

Picasso is praised for his art. However, many biographies also give an account of his reprehensible behaviour towards women. Must we separate the artist's life from his work? Picasso himself responded to this ethical and philosophical question: "It is not sufficient to know an artist's works. It is also necessary to know when he produced them, why, how, and under what circumstances." The MNBAQ has decided to pay tribute to the women in his life who were his muses since Picasso's work is closely linked to his love stories, in which passion and violence and destruction meshed.

## *A pause during the visit*

Furthermore, a section of the exhibition will also afford an opportunity to hear three of the twofold exhibition's collaborators, Mickaël Bergeron, Cassandra Cacheiro and Sara Hini, propose avenues for reflection on the possibility of differentiating the lives of artists from their work. They broach this ethical question from different angles to sustain our personal reflection. In an age of cultural boycotts, maintaining a dialogue enables us to better grasp the questions and to highlight the grey areas that have persisted over time.

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## **Credits**

*Picasso. Figures is organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Musée national Picasso-Paris and MondoMostre. The contribution comes from the Mesure d'aide financière à l'intention des musées d'État pour des expositions internationales majeures. The exhibition Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation is organized by the MNBAQ.*

*The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is a state corporation funded by the Gouvernement du Québec.*

**Québec** 







An exhibition organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Musée national Picasso-Paris and MondoMostre.



***Picasso. Figures***  
***Opening a Dialogue About Body Liberation***  
 Pierre Lassonde Pavilion of the MNBAQ  
 Until September 12, 2021

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INFORMATION: 418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150 / [mnbaq.org](http://mnbaq.org)

Page 1 – Photos from left to right: Pablo Picasso, *Reading Woman*, Boisgeloup, January 2, 1932. Oil on canvas, 130 x 97.5 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris. Dation Pablo Picasso, 1979. MP137 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Mathieu Rabeau // Kezna Dalz, *Black Joy, Black Vulnerability, Black Support, Black Love*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas. Collection of the artist

Page 2 – Photos from top to bottom: Pablo Picasso, *The Acrobat*, Paris, January 18, 1930. Oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm. Musée national Picasso Paris. Dation Pablo Picasso, 1979. MP120 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Adrien Didierjean // Pablo Picasso, *Head of a Woman (Fernande)*, Paris, Autumn, 1909. Bronze, 40.5 x 23 x 26 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris. Dation Pablo Picasso, 1979. MP243 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Adrien Didierjean

Page 3 – Photos from top to bottom: Pablo Picasso, *Luncheon on the Grass, after Manet*, Vauvenargues, March 3 – August 20, 1960. Oil on canvas, 130 x 195 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris. Dation Pablo Picasso, 1979. MP215 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Jean-Gilles Berizzi // Pablo Picasso, *The Bathers*, Biarritz, Summer 1918. Oil on canvas, 27 x 22 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris. Dation Pablo Picasso, 1979. MP61 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Sylvie Chan-Liat // Pablo Picasso, *Portrait of Dora Maar*, Paris, November 23, 1937. Oil on canvas, 55.3 x 46.3 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris. Dation Pablo Picasso, 1979. MP166 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Mathieu Rabeau

Page 4 – Photo : Pablo Picasso, *Jacqueline with Crossed Hands*, Vallauris, June 3, 1954. Oil on canvas, 116 x 88.5 cm. Musée national Picasso-Paris. Dation Jacqueline Picasso, 1979. MP1990-26 © Picasso Estate / Socan (2021) Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée national Picasso-Paris) / Adrien Didierjean

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## General Information

### OPENING HOURS OF THE MUSEUM COMPLEX

**Until September 12, 2021**

Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays until 9 p.m.

### ADMISSION

#### Featured exhibitions

Adults: 25 \$

Seniors (65 and Over): 23 \$

Ages 18 to 30: 15 \$

Ages 13 to 17: 7 \$

Families (2 adults accompanied  
up to 5 children aged 17 and  
under): 54 \$

Group rate (15 people or more)  
for hotels, tour operators and  
companies: 22 \$

12 years and under: free

Membres: free

Wednesdays from, 5 p.m. to  
9 p.m.: half-price

#### MNBAQ National Collections

Adults: 16 \$

Seniors (65 and Over): 15 \$

Ages 18 to 30: 10 \$

Ages 13 to 17: 5 \$

Families (2 adults accompanied  
up to 5 children aged 17 and  
under): 36 \$

Group rate (15 people or more)  
for hotels, tour operators and  
companies: 13 \$

12 years and under: free

Membres: free

Wednesdays from, 5 p.m. to  
9 p.m.: half-price

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Parking, Bookshop-Boutique,  
Wi-Fi access, free wheelchairs,  
self-service cloakroom and  
Baby Changing Room

### TO CONTACT US

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